

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the recitations and to include claim 2, which subject matter is illustrated by Figures 1, 2, 3 and 9.

New claims 7-10 correspond generally to claims 1 and 5-6, with claim 7 being somewhat different in scope.

See specification page 4, lines 22-26: It should be observed that the sum of the sections of the branches 3 and 4 is substantially equal to the section of the segment 2.

The anticipation rejection of claims 1 and 5 by WEBB 6,629,533 is moot in view of the amendment.

The obviousness rejection of claims 3-4 over WEBB and MOAZED 5,993,407 is also moot in view of the amendment.

Claim 2 was rejected as obvious over WEBB and GOODE 6,406,453.

Amended claim 2 recites the invention in a manner non-obvious over WEBB and GOODE.

Independent claims 1 and 7 now recite that the second portion of the elongated body is made of two diverging branches, at rest, the branches being put close to each other under action of an injector appliance for locating the plug into the meatus and then diverging, by themselves, elastically each branch from the other branch.

Moreover, there is recited said two branches diverging elastically, each branch from the other branch, in a plane including the longitudinal axis and the major axis of the elliptical cross-section of said elongate body.

By this geometry, the surgeon knows the direction of the plane of the branches movement when diverging into the canaliculus, and can then adjust the angular orientation of the plug around its general axis for meeting the orientation of the natural canaliculus which is collapsed on an antero-posterior plane.

The applied art does not make these teachings or suggest this structure.

Neither reference teaches the elongate body having a second portion made of two branches, each of the two branches having a cross-section substantially equal to half of the elliptical cross-section of said first portion, wherein said two branches are elastically connected to said first section in order to be biased each branch against the other branch and to diverge elastically each branch from the other branch in a plane including the longitudinal axis and the major axis of the elliptical cross-section of said first portion. As to claim 7, the references do not further teach each of the two branches, at rest, diverging and extend obliquely relative to said longitudinal axis.

Thus, the claims are believed patentable.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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